PAUL ROBESON AT 60: DuBOIS, ESLANDA ROBESON, BELFRAGE, BURNHAM...pp. 6-7

NATIONAL GUARDIAN
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Soviet bomb test ban boosts summit parley; K. ready and waiting

By Kumar Goshal

TWO ITEMS of news from Moscow last week captured the headlines in the world press and held the attention of people everywhere yearning for a top-level initiative somewhere to block the road to nuclear war.

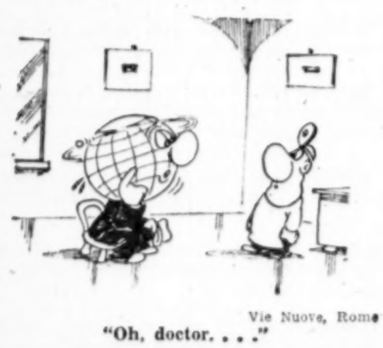
- On March 27, the recently elected Supreme Soviet unanimously approved CP First Secy. Nikita S. Khrushchev as Premier of the U.S.S.R. to replace Marshal Bulganin.
- On March 31 Andrei Gromyko, re-appointed as Foreign Minister in the new Council of Ministers (cabinet) announced that Moscow would unilaterally halt nuclear weapons tests. The parliament gave full approval.

Gromyko's proposal was qualified by the statement that, if other nuclear powers failed to take similar steps, the Soviet Union reserved the right to reconsider its action "in the interests of its security."

TO KILL AND TO SPARE: Gromyko's proposal came as no surprise to Washington. In the parliamentary election campaign Khruschchev said that nuclear weapon stockpiles had reached a stage ample enough for some power "unilaterally to discontinue the production of weapons." Columnist Drew Pearson reported that the U. S. Embassy in Moscow had "kept up a steady bombardment of cables to Washington," predicting the forthcoming news. The Embassy said Khrushchev had told the Canadian Ambassador that it was time to halt H-bomb production because Washington and Moscow already had "twice as many bombs as are necessary to kill all the people in the world."

Washington's response, however, was brusque and hollow. Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee chairman

(Continued on Page 9)



Vie Nuove, Rome

"Oh, doctor. . . ."

THE POSTER IN THE HALL IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY, READS: "ATOMIC WEAPONS? NO!"
Social Democratic leader Erich Ollenhauer addresses a giant rally protesting nuclear weapons for West German troops, as the world campaign to ban the testing and use of atomic weapons grows.

REBEL LEADER CALLS FOR 'TOTAL WAR'

Cuba gets signal to unseat dictator Batista

By Elmer Bendiner

THE ZERO HOUR struck in Cuba last week. From his headquarters in the rugged Sierra Maestra mountains Fidel Castro had issued his manifesto declaring "total war" against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista as of April 1.

He asked Cubans to pay no taxes after that date, warned that all officials who remain in office after April 1 would one day be tried for treason; called on soldiers, sailors and airmen to join the rebels; promised an intensified campaign to burn the fields and sabotage the factories after April 5; ordered a halt to all transportation in Oriente province on pain of drawing rebel gunfire; said all steps would pave the way for a general strike "which will overthrow the dictatorship."

GROWING SUPPORT: For more than a year Fidel Castro has beaten off Batista's attacks by air, and his repeated "mopping-up" operations. He is no longer an isolated guerrilla fighter with a handful of adventurers and idealists fighting a losing battle.

His guerrilla tactics have been successful because the people of Oriente Province have sheltered and fed his troops. A National Labor Front has rallied unionists to his cause. The once-powerful radical movement among Cuba's workers shifted their attitude from an original mistrust of "adventurers" to a detached sympathetic interest.

Increasingly, as Castro has shed the retinue of career politicos who applauded him from Miami, and adopted a program of land and labor reform, the old dispersed Left of Cuba has been rallying closer to him, though still apparently apart from his forces. A National Student Front and a Civic Resistance Front have carried the battle into Havana streets.

GRIM REMINDERS: Even before the April 1 deadline, transportation had almost ceased in the eastern end of Cuba. Trains left Camaguey only in the daytime. The tracks to Manzanillo had been blown up. Buses halted service to the towns outside Santiago de Cuba.

Even where transportation was running there were few passengers ready to risk a trip. Burned buses and trains littered Cuba's roads.

There were grimmer signs of civil war along the roads as well. Batista's army

(Continued on Page 9)

HARD TIMES FOR 2-TO-3 YEARS SEEN

The crisis is real—depression predicted

By Victor Perlo

CRISIS! THERE IS no longer any doubt about it. This is not a temporary recession. It is a classical crisis of over-production, of at least moderate severity. It will be followed by a depression during which output stays near its low point. Hard times will last at least two or three years.

It is a real crisis because it is centered in the dynamic capital goods industries. It follows a boom featuring expansion of capacity, which became pronounced over-capacity during 1957—not because of mistakes in policy, but because capitalist prosperity requires this. The crisis will continue until capital values are destroyed enough through obsolescence, scrapping of inefficient plants, dumping of surplus stocks, reduction of existing values, to restore the rate of profit on what is left.

Until then, business investment will drop. Last November corporations reported plans to cut investment 7% this year. By February they anticipated a 13% drop, and the actual decline will be 20%. Manufacturing corporations plan 30% less in new projects this year, foreshadowing a further investment decline in 1959.

JOBLESS UP: It is a severe crisis because it involves most of the capitalist world. Japanese steel output has been cut, textile production slashed 30%. German steel production is off 10%.

There will be a financial crisis too. The stock market broke late last year. Business failures are at the highest point in 25 years. Auto repossessions and foreclosures are mounting. The two largest railroads in the county are absorbing staggering operating losses.

The crisis has become the focus of national politics. Unemployment will approximate (officially) 5,600,000 in March, a million over the 1950 postwar peak, and there is mass hardship in most industrial areas reminiscent of the Thir-

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THE MAIL BAG

Dam the depression!

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

In welcome contrast to the bankrupt Old Party politicos who are going to cure the coming depression by building highways with the people's taxes, the organized farmers of the nation are striking out for genuine relief through sound expansion of the economy.

"Build multi-purpose dams," they say.

Assembled last month in St. Paul, Minn., delegates from seven North Central states to a convention of the Farmers Union Central Exchange passed resolutions calling attention to "the ever-increasing need for an abundant supply of low-cost power to facilitate maximum development of the natural resources of the great Northwest states. This can be properly achieved only through the construction of publicly owned multi-purpose dams.

"We urge the Congress to authorize construction of Hells Canyon, Paradise, Yellow Tail, and other high multi-purpose dams.

"We urge that if Congress authorizes a program of public works to help alleviate the unemployment situation, this should take the form of comprehensive resource development projects, which would reflect the greatest economic benefit to the nation. Water- and power-resource development should have the highest priority."

Reuben W. Borough

Down with the debt

RICHLAND, N.Y.

Congress should refuse to raise the national debt limit. As they are going on now it will not be long till they get to the point of no return where it will be impossible for the U.S. to meet its obligations. It seems to me that more vicious legislation has been proposed in this administration then in many years. There seems to be no organized, effective opposition in existence or in the making. He who would be free must himself strike the blow.

Paul Hamilton

Till life begins

PALO ALTO, CALIF.

I'd like to say how much I enjoy the paper. I'm 15 now—please keep publishing 'till I'm 40 and then some! **Ron Sabaroff**

A mother's gratitude

BRONX, N.Y.

When the wonderful news came of my son's transfer from Alcatraz, I was going into the hospital for an operation of my eyes. Therefore, I wasn't able to write you of the gratitude that was in my heart for everything the GUARDIAN has done. Now, I am recovering, and I want to thank you and all of the GUARDIAN readers for your efforts.

I want to express my very warm feeling toward the many, many people in the Sobell committees throughout the country who are giving so much of themselves for Morton's freedom.

This has been a long and hard fight for our family. But we have been given great energy and courage by the devotion of so many thousands of people. The transfer from Alcatraz shows that our voices will be heard and that there is great hope that we can soon bring Morton home again. I know that we can count on everyone to work harder than ever now.

Rose Sobell

How Crazy Can You Get Dept.

A toy knife patented by a Floridian discharges a red liquid when the user squeezes a bulb in the handle. The object is to release the liquid when the point touches a playmate.

"Thus, the user of the toy will derive additional pleasure from the realistic effect of bleeding," says the patent.

The position of the imaginary wound also indicates the wielder's marksmanship.

The patent (2,826,859) was granted to John E. Shaffer of Brandon, Fla. It covers bayonets, swords and daggers as well as knives.

—New York **Times**, 3/22

One year free sub to sender of each item printed under this heading. Be sure to send original clip with each entry. Winner this week: There were 11 entries of the same item this week. The earliest postmark was on the letter from J.W., Rye, N.Y.

A bargain gift

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

I have about 100 copies of the cloth edition of **The Stalin Era** left, originally priced at $2.25. This edition is especially good for gifts or for libraries. I shall be glad to sell them for $1 each postpaid as a gift to any person or library any of your readers cares to send them to.

Anna Louise Strong
724 E. Edgeware Rd.
Los Angeles 26

Education incomplete?

CINCINNATI, O.

Some thoughtful friend on the GUARDIAN sent me a copy of **Like One of the Family**, by Alice Childress. I opened it and finished reading it that night. Hardly a day and never a week goes by that I don't pick it up and review a page or a chapter. It is excellent reading for all people. I have let some of my friends read it.

Most of them feel as I do about it; that no white person can understand the mental and physical brutality Negroes must suffer to earn a meager living until they read this book. It is a must for any white person who wants to better understand the true feeling of the Negro people and especially Negro women. Those who have not read **Like One of the Family** have not completed their liberal education.

Reuel Stanfield

A small supply remains at $1 a copy—Ed.

Newer music

TUCSON, ARIZ.

My husband, Jake Taff, asked me shortly before he died on Jan. 9, to send something in his name to the GUARDIAN. The reason is best expressed in his poem, "The Song:"

The song
falls
into a wayside
ear —

A newer music
is rising
clear —

A newer music
rising
in the human ear —

The human chorus,
everywhere.

I am sending you, along with the $25, two books of his published poetry, **In the Room** and **As the Hour.**

Eleanore Taff

How come?

NEW YORK, N.Y.

We all know that the President prefers golf to any other sport and Westerns to any other form of literature. That is his good right as a free American. But nobody compels me to learn golf or to enjoy Western books or movies.

How is it possible that the President can force upon an unwilling nation and an unwilling world a Secy. of State for the only reason that he likes him **better even than golf and Westerns?**

Ben H. Jones

CP WAS there

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

In your article about the revolution in Venezuela you wrote that the Communist Party was "said to be" represented in the "Patriotic Junta", which led the revolution against Perez Jimenez, dictatorship. As a matter of fact the Communist Party was represented in the Junta. This appears from the Venezuelan illegal and exile press before the revolution.

E. Rasmussen

Lancaster in London Daily Express

"Of course, I fully realize that those dear, clever Germans invented it, but we're the ones they tried it out on. Remember?"

Back numbers

CINCINNATI, O.

In checking the collection of GUARDIANS that I have accumulated in the past ten years, my file is nearly complete. I lack the following issues:

All of Vol. 1 except No. 17; Vol. 2, Nos. 1-18, 32, 43, 44; Vol. 3, Nos. 5, 13-14, 24-26, 29, 34, 37 to the final issue of the year; Vol. 4; Vol. 5, Nos. 1-19, 21-26, 29, 38, 40, 44, 46, 50 to the final issue of the year; Vol. 6, Nos. 1-8; Vol. 7, Nos. 18, 36, 45, to the final issue of the year;; Vol. 8, Nos. 1-11.

If any of your readers can supply me with any of the copies that I am missing, I shall be pleased to have them communicate with me at **1914 Dale Rd., Cincinnati 37, O.**

Maurice Page

REPORT TO READERS

What moved Moscow?

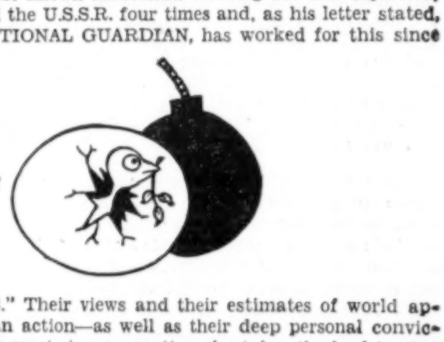
WHO CAN TELL what tips the balance in the affairs of mankind? On Jan. 18 this year, Corliss and Margaret Lamont wrote to President Eisenhower and Premier Bulganin proposing that each, on his own initiative, halt bomb tests for a period of at least one year. They made the full text of the letters public on Jan. 23 through a large advertisement in the N.Y. **Times.** Such a move, they said to both heads of states, "would catch the imagination of mankind and be a dramatic action that might break the international stalemate."

On Feb. 28 the GUARDIAN's Editor-in-Exile, Cedric Belfrage, wrote to Nikita Khrushchev, expressing his awareness of the U.S.S.R.'s stated readiness to abandon bomb tests by agreement as a first and logical disarmament step which Belfrage called "the kind of principled position which genuine socialists expect of the leading socialist states". He reported a sentiment in Britain that the Soviets should abandon the tests unilaterally. He then wrote the following:

"Since I have no doubt that your country wants to give every possible lead that is consistent with its security, I suggest that there is a way to do so short of a definite and final announcement that it will abandon tests. That is, to announce that the U.S.S.R. will set off no more test explosions unless and until the U.S.A. and/or Britain set them off."

THE SOVIET DECISION to bar further tests, announced March 31 by Foreign Minister Gromyko as the first act of the new Khrushchev government, goes not as far as the Lamonts had suggested but a little farther than Belfrage had hoped was possible. The Soviets will "reconsider" their decision—not resume tests forthwith—if other nations fail to follow suit.

Belfrage and the Lamonts are well-known here and abroad as longtime proponents of American-Soviet friendship. The Lamonts are probably the best known Americans working for this objective; Belfrage has visited the U.S.S.R. four times and, as his letter stated, "my paper, the NATIONAL GUARDIAN, has worked for this since



it was born in 1948." Their views and their estimates of world approbation of such an action—as well as their deep personal conviction that the testing must stop, no matter who takes the lead to stop it—undoubtedly have been seriously weighed by those responsible for the U.S.S.R.'s epochal decision.

Yet the Soviets have not been without pressures at home for such a move—not for propaganda advantage, but because of the weight of scientific testimony to the ravages of radiation on world health and because the Soviet people too, want the threat of nuclear war removed. The refusal of Soviet scientist Peter Kapitza to work on atomic weapons is well-known. Along with Kapitza, some 154 other Soviet scientists responded to the Pugwash Statement issued last summer by 20 atomic scientists from ten countries, professing "readiness for common effort . . . toward the prevention of atomic war, the creation of secure peace and tranquillity for all mankind."

NOTED SOVIET GENETICIST Trofim Lysenko agrees with his arch U.S. opponent in the field of genetic theory, Dr. Hermann J. Muller of the University of Indiana, on the destructive effect of atomic testing on heredity. Lysenko stated his views last September. Muller stated his again March 30 on the CBS-TV program **See It Now.** He spoke of the "erosion of civilization" brought on by radioactivity due to weapons testing. Dr. Linus Pauling, on the program, warned that fall-out from nuclear tests thus far might mean that about 1,000,000 persons will die of leukemia and other diseases "than would have otherwise."

Of this 85-minute program, with Dr. Willard F. Libby of the Atomic Energy Commission plugging for non-stop testing, the N.Y. **Times** TV commentator Jack Gould wrote:

"The scientists who protested the tests were so infinitely more moving and persuasive in their alarm that they overshadowed the glibly-delivered rationalizations of Dr. Libby . . . It was hard to down the thought that the only concern of man everywhere must be the pursuit of peace. The alternative, with horror still unknown, is too terrifying to warrant contemplation."

IN NEW YORK, the Lamonts immediately telegraphed President Eisenhower, reminding him of their letter of Jan. 18 (which was never acknowledged, although the Soviet Embassy acknowledged receipt of their letter to Bulganin and promised prompt delivery.) Their wire said:

"In the name of reason and humanity, Mr. President, we appeal to you to cancel the nuclear weapons tests scheduled to begin this spring in the Pacific . . . We believe that tens of millions of Americans stand with us in hoping that our government will match the new Soviet move toward sanity in international relations. We urge that your Administration promptly put into effect policies calculated to regain for our nation its moral leadership in the cause of world peace."

Offhand, we can't recall any moral leadership in government hereabouts for world peace since Franklin Roosevelt died. But the substance of the Lamonts' letter is strongly urged upon you for a letter of your own to the President, right now, asking that the forthcoming spring tests be rescinded and a ban on future tests announced NOW.

—THE GUARDIAN

McCLELLAN REPORT ENDS LONG HONEYMOON WITH AFL-CIO

Senators propose new tight laws for labor

By Russ Nixon

Washington Representative of the independent United Electrical Workers

WASHINGTON

CHICKENS CAME HOME to roost for the labor movement here last week. The occasion was the completion of the first year of operation of the McClellan Committee.

The committee's first report, in the words of the single dissenting member, Sen. McNamara (D-Mich.), "framed a blanket indictment against the labor movement." Far-reaching legislation to establish government controls over union treasuries and internal operations was proposed. On March 31 Sen. McNamara resigned from the committee.

For the AFL-CIO, the report and the recent Kohler hearings forced an end to its long honeymoon with the committee. After a year of willing collaboration, president George Meany blasted the report as a "disgraceful example of the use of sensationalism in an attempt to smear the labor movtment." For years Meany has closed his eyes to Sen. Irving Ives' (R-N.Y.) support of the Taft-Hartley Law and declared him to be "labor's friend." But Ives signed the report that Meany cried had "gratuitously insulted the entire labor movement." Presidential hopeful Sen. John Kennedy (D-Mass.) gambled his chances by giving unqualified support to the report. These Senators were joined in the report by the five other avowed anti-labor members—the vote was 7 to 1.

STRIKE-BREAKERS: On the day the McClellan report was issued, UAW president Walter Reuther and his union were on the pan before the committee. Using the four-year-old Kohler strike and the recent bitter Indiana Perfect Circle strike as a platform, Sens. Karl Mundt (R-S.D.), Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Carl T. Curtis (R-Neb.) and John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) were conducting an old-fashioned strike-breaking spree with national TV, radio and press coverage.

Reuther deluged the committee with assurances that he is 100% anti-communist, that he opposes the idea that there is a class struggle in America, that his pay over the last 22 years had averaged only $9,000 a year, that his union is not corrupt. But this didn't help. As the UAW entered its crucial bargaining sessions, he and his union got the full treatment of the McClellan group acting like a vigilante Citizens Committee set up by an employer to break a tough strike.

While this was going on, Meany was called before the Senate Labor Committee and challenged to support a far-ranging program of federal control of trade unions. Sen. Kennedy was chairman of these hearings and his bill, S-3454, designed to implement the legislative proposals of the McClellan Committee, was the main item on the agenda.

SEN. McCLELLAN POSES WITH HIS CHIEF COUNSEL
After one year's work, trouble looms for labor

THE HOOK: Kennedy dangled the hook of government controls before the AFL-CIO. Meany blew hot and cold. Long failure to take a clear stand on the employer-dominated Republicans and Democrats in Congress and the acceptance of government invasion of the trade unions to attempt destruction of the left wing in labor had disarmed Meany and the AFL-CIO. He took the hook and found himself discussing **what** government controls should be, not whether there **should** be any such controls. Sometimes the ghosts of Gompers and Phil Murray and the shadow of John L. Lewis led Meany to echo warnings against anti-labor legislation. But the hook was set and the AFL-CIO is now debating what the terms of the government license for unions should be.

Kennedy wrapped his government union control bill in the respectability of its support by professors from Harvard, Yale, MIT and Brown. How could the AFL-CIO question the proposals of such eminent impartial public representatives? Troubled Meany responded, "God save us from our friends." He might better have said, "Save us from ourselves," for the Kennedy proposal to turn the independence of labor over to "enlightened" government and professors has deep roots in the AFL-CIO's current collaborationist policies.

It is part of the widespread practice of turning decisions on wages and working conditions over to "impartial" referees and arbitrators rather than to depend on labor's collective strength to reach settlements. It fits the Reuther scheme of turning the UAW's morals and civil liberties over to a Public Panel of Professors and Preachers. It's the logic of the AFL-CIO Communications Workers' proposal that Secy. of Labor Mitchell set up an impartial board to have final say on the union's collective bargaining demands.

THE DANGERS: So the McClellan Committee has the labor movement on the spot. The question is whether the revealed corruption of business unionism in the labor movement will result in the really deeper and fundamentally more dangerous corruption of government control of unions?

The McClellan committee is aggressively anti-trade union. Of its eight members, six and a "half" are anti-labor. Six are Taft-Hartley supporters and the "half" is Kennedy—on both sides. Chairman McClellan is an unqualified enemy of labor. Goldwater, Mundt, and Curtis are classic examples of the pure NAM and Chamber of Commerce agents in Congress.

As president George M. Harrison of the Railway Clerks Union said at last December's AFL-CIO Convention: "The McClellan committee was established for the purpose of developing sufficient stench among labor unions to air-condition the public mind for restrictive and punitive legislation against organized labor." But this was a rare voice in the AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO failed labor as a sentinel in not giving the warning during the first year of the Committee's operation.

REAL SOLUTION: The first aim of the committee has been to put labor on the defensive and to enact outright NAM anti-labor laws. The AFL-CIO cowered before this committee for a year. Now, it seems that the imminence of the recession-colored 1958 election may rescue the labor movement from these most extreme legislative results.

The second danger is that we will complete the march beyond Taft-Hartley and the political thought control of unions in the Communist Control Act of 1954 (Brownell-Butler Bill) to virtually complete licensing control over labor by the federal government. If this is done the real victims will not be the crooks and thieves and labor bosses, but the healthy rank-and-file unionism which really costs employers money in better wages and working conditions.

The solution of the corruption in the labor movement lies in winning the struggle within the unions for militant rank-and-file policies, practices and leadership.

London Daily Mirror
"Y'know that money you've put by for a rainy day—how about buying an umbrella?"

LAY-OFFS INCREASE IN WINDY CITY

Chicago labor goes into action on unemployment

Special to the Guardian

CHICAGO

LAY-OFFS are still increasing in all manufacturing industries here. Unemployment compensation figures for mid-March show an over-all increase in total jobless, despite the fact that the construction season should now be getting under full steam.

Not reflected in the compensation figures are the growing thousands of railroad jobless whose benefits are drawn through the separate railroad agencies. Dramatizing the deep crisis in the roads is the shut-down of the historic Pullman Car shop on Chicago's far south side, the scene of the great Pullman and American Railroad Union strike in 1893. Pullman workers with 35 years' seniority have been laid off, with little hope of ever being called back to work.

The Cook County Industrial Union Council on March 22 held a mass conference on unemployment, the first major effort here by organized labor to cope with the jobs crisis. Attended by over 500 union leaders, rank-and-filers and unemployed workers, there was unanimous agreement on a series of emergency measures. Of the rank-and-file members present, the majority were Negroes and nearly a third were women.

THE PROGRAM: Unionists from AFL unions (the local merger of AFL-CIO has not yet taken place) and from independent unions attended and participated in the discussion.

Major decisions of the conference were:

• To call for a special session of the Illinois General Assembly to vote additional relief funds, and increase and extend unemployment compensation payments.

• To organize a mass gathering of labor in the state capital to press Gov. Stratton for action.

• To stage a giant rally in Chicago under the sponsorship of the CIO Council. In keeping with the central theme of the conference—"unity of employed and unemployed"—union and non-union workers will be urged to attend.

• To demand a special session of the Chicago City Council to act locally on the needs of the unemployed, and to speed the city construction program.

• To demand that the State Administration take immediate steps for distribution of surplus foods.

• To urge that the meeting facilities and other services of unions be made available to assist the unemployed.

From the floor, George Burton of the United Rubber Workers called upon the CIO Council to set up a commission on unemployment to act as a "union for the unemployed." The proposal was adopted without opposition.

The tone of the conference was militant, and critical of political officials from both major parties. Rank-and-filers challenged the characterization made by CIO leaders of Mayor Daley as "labor's friend"; the AFL top brass came in for sharp criticism for its close ties with Gov. Stratton. A slurring reference by the Mayor's representative, Fred Hoeler, to the Unemployed Councils in the Thirties got such a reception from the floor that the City Hall spokesman had to apologize.

Conference observers agree that Illinois labor is on the move.

Lewis in Milwaukee Journal
"The face is familiar, but for a while I couldn't recall the name."

CASE OF THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

The compounded tragedies of youths' murder trial

IF LOUIS ALVAREZ is convicted in the New York trial of seven boys charged with the murder of 15-year-old Michael Farmer, the moral drawn by his gang brothers will probably be that his mistake lay in being a poor gang president—if he was one at all—an inept "bopper" and a reluctant Dragon.

If there were any Egyptian Dragons in the courtroom they might have been impressed by the splash that was made by a successful "bopper," Michael (Pee Wee) Ramos who swaggered into court with complete assurance. His face was lean, pale, intelligent. He wore a checked shirt open at the throat, dungarees and suede shoes. He has been the president of the Bronx Dragons, reportedly one of the toughest gangs in the city. His headquarters: a candy store in the Bronx.

A CALL FROM "LOUIE": Pee Wee is 18. At 12 he was convicted of burglary; at 16 of assault. He admitted beating up a policeman. At 17 he was arrested on a charge of participating in a policy racket. He is currently on probation, which could account for his cooperation as a witness for the prosecution in the trial of the seven youths charged with young Farmer's murder.

Pee Wee said that last July 30 he received a call at the candy store telephone booth from someone called "Louie" of the "Dragons of the West Side." "Louie" said he was a friend of Frankie Loco. "I told him Frankie was my boy," testified Pee

Wee. "He was with me in the old Dragons." "Louie" said he was having trouble with "the Irish gangs on the West Side" and needed help. Pee Wee said he was having a little trouble, himself, that night but he'd make it at Highbridge Park at about 10 p.m. with some rifles and a car.

"WHIP IT ON": At 10 that night Pee Wee got another call from "Louie" asking why he wasn't there and what to do now. Pee Wee testified that he told Louie he couldn't make it at all that night. "Louie" asked for Pee Wee's advice because "you got experience." Pee Wee admitted he had, said he got his experience with the "Old Dragons" who "hit first and talked later." Pee Wee told his disciple: "Go right up there and whip it on." (The defendants maintain that they were on a "peace mission" that night.)

After that came the walk to Highbridge Park, and a little later Michael Farmer lay dead. And Louis Alvarez—whom Pee Wee never met, who was drunk on cheap wine that tragic night and who was trying to act like a president, is among those facing the death sentence for murder.

Earlier James Ricks Jr., 17, told how Louis Alvarez came to be president of the Egyptian Dragons. Ricks said: "I elected him." He said he had "elected" the other officers too. Ricks had come up from an apprenticeship in the "Riverside Tots" before that junior auxiliary "quit bopping."' He admitted that five days before the Highbridge Park killing he had told some of the boys "we was going uptown to mess up some Jesters."

A BOY'S MOTHER: The night before the killing he had urged the boys: "Let's go and mess 'em up." But not enough boys showed up. On the fatal night Ricks himself did not show because his mother wouldn't let him out. The king-maker of the Dragons, the boy who was spoiling for a fight, was still a kid who was spared the ordeal of standing trial for his life because his mother kept him in.

James Ricks' chronic truancy had been a problem to his mother. The boy admitted that she used to "raise quite a rumpus." Last January she took him to Children's Court and had him committed as a wayward minor. He is now in the Otisville Training School for Boys, where he has been told that his term there depends on his own conduct. Defense attorneys made the point that "good conduct" might include cooperation with the prosecution.

Under cross-examination Ricks insisted he bore no grudge against his mother for committing him but he contradicted her sworn testimony that he had been at home the night before the assault in the park.

BEHIND THE TRAGEDY: Some of the defense attorneys, struggling to save the lives of their own clients whom Ricks had implicated, tore into the boy witness. They needled and baited him, tried to show him up as stupid. The boy's temper flared when an attorney asked him to add 15 and 16, to remember what he did on an afternoon last July, to list repeatedly the Dragon boys. It is a tactic to which the defense is driven by the rules of the court. Attorneys cannot show the reasons behind the tragedy that took the life of Michael Farmer and now threatens other boys' lives as well. They cannot show how these boys were sucked into a way of life that makes tragedy inevitable and claims them as victims too.

The atmosphere of tragedy is heavy in the court room. Many of the parents and relatives come day after day to watch their boys. Louis Alvarez' father testified that he had not worked since the trial began because he cannot stay away from the court. He waits outside the door. He brings his boy food. He told the jury that for a while he brought Louis' 11-year-old brother Ernest, too, until after one painful session Ernest had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital.

It is hard to see how the compounding tragedies of the trial are less senseless than the one that took Michael Farmer's life.

NOT IN THE CURRICULUM AT THE NORMAL SCHOOLS
Arthur Santos, teacher at a N.Y. parochial school, was bashed on the head by a teenage group when he tried to prevent them from molesting his class in a park. A doctor treats him at Fordham Hospital in the Bronx.

JENNER BILL GETS 'FACE LIFTING'

Bi-partisan move in Congress to curb High Court's power

SENATE SUPPORTERS of the Jenner bill last week shifted tactics in their battle to curb the Supreme Court. The bill, introduced by Sen. William E. Jenner (R-Ind.), would restrict the Court in its power to review in five areas: activities of Congressional investigating committees, Federal employe security regulations, state anti-subversive laws, school board actions against teachers charged with disloyalty, and admissions to legal practice in the states.

When the Judiciary Committee held hearings early in March, popular sentiment against the bill was reflected in the virtually unanimous opposition of the major legal and civil rights organizations. Testimony of the Natl. Lawyers Guild summed up the main arguments of the critics: "The real purpose of the bill is to discipline the Supreme Court because it has recently been upholding civil liberties" and "the bill is obnoxious because it interferes with the independence of the judiciary and with our Constitutional system of separation of powers."

Last week, as the measure seemed stymied in committee, Sen. John M. Butler (R-Md.) proposed an amendment which would simply reverse the court's decisions in four cases. In the fifth area—state rules for admission to the bar—Butler, like Jenner, would take away the Court's review powers.

THE TARGETS: The four decisions which are targets of the bill are the **Watkins** case, which curbs the authority of Congressional witchhunting committees; the **Nelson** case, which invalidated 42 state anti-subversive laws; the **Cole** case, which limited loyalty dismissals of federal employes to sensitive jobs; and the **Yates** case, which construed the Smith Act as not forbidding advocacy of "abstract doctrine."

Sen. Jenner accepted the Butler amendment as a substitute for his measure and predicted it would be regarded favorably by the Judiciary Committee. A move for an early vote was blocked by Sen. Thomas C. Hennings, Jr. (D-Mo.), who called for "thorough hearings." The N.Y. **Times** pointed out that "the eventual fate of the measure may depend on the attitude of Atty. Gen. William P. Rogers, who vigorously opposed the original Jenner bill."

Another shot was fired at the judiciary on March 26 when Judiciary Committee chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) requested a nominee for a Federal judgeship to take an oath to carry out the oath he would eventually take to support the Constitution and laws of the U.S. The Washington **Post** pointed out that the aim of the extra oath is to keep judges "out of the legislative field into which some Congressmen think they have intruded lately."

The new oath was offered as another amendment to the Jenner bill by Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.), but not acted upon. It requires prospective judges to swear that they will not "participate knowingly in any decisions designed to alter the meaning of the Constitution itself or of any law as passed by the Congress and adopted under the Constitution."

The N.Y. **Times** commented: "The preliminary oath adds about as much to the meaning and dignity of the occasion as if the candidate were required to say 'cross my heart and hope to die.' Incidentally, on the theory that two oaths are better than one, three are probably better than two and so on—the possibilities are limitless. But the public's patience with Mr. Eastland's and Mr. O'Mahoney's mumbo-jumbo is not."

AWAIT STATE DEPT. VERDICT ON WITNESSES

Powell-Schuman trial set for July 14

A FAIR TRIAL for three Americans charged with sedition depends on U.S. willingness to sign an agreement for judicial assistance with the Chinese Peoples Republic. This was the main point made by A. L. Wirin, attorney for John and Sylvia Powell and Julian Schuman, in a 24-page report to Judge Louis E. Goodman in the Federal District Court at San Francisco last week.

Wirin, recently returned from China, pointed out that if the agreement is reached the defense will call 1,000 witnesses to verify stories which appeared in the **China Monthly Review**, published by the Powells in Shanghai before and during the Korean war.

Among the witnesses, he said, were 25 scientists who would testify that the U.S. used germ warfare during the war, and 18 clergymen, professors and lawyers prepared to appear as character witnesses for the defendants. Wirin said he would ask the government to bear the expense of bringing the 1,000 witnesses to the U.S., an estimated $2,000,000.

MAY DISMISS: After hearing Wirin, Judge Goodman set July 14 as the trial date but indicated that he may dismiss the case if the defense is prevented from bringing in witnesses. "I don't see any need for a judicial assistance agreement," he said. "It's only necessary for China to give the witnesses passports and our State Dept. to give them visas."

The judge told Wirin, however, that "if the witnesses cannot get U.S. visas, then you are probably going to get a dismissal of your case."

Wirin pointed out that an agreement was also necessary to release from Chinese authorities physical evidence relating to germ warfare. The evidence, he said, included two bombs which Chinese officials said were used to spread germ-infected insects in Manchuria; the insects themselves, and the preserved brain of an alleged Manchurian victim of the germs.

Wirin also filed a subpena for a number of government documents, including Defense Dept. files and testimony of military leaders before closed-door Congressional committees. Assistant U.S. Atty. Robert Schnacke said that the material, which refers to germ and poison-gas warfare, is secret, but that he will try to produce it.

Neues Deutschland, Berlin
"How can you expect to get to Mars, Mr. Dulles, when you can't recognize such an important constellation on Earth?"

THE MEANING OF THE VAST REORGANIZATION

The second Russian farm revolution

By Wilfred Burchett
Guardian staff correspondent

MOSCOW

THERE IS SOMETHING like a second agrarian revolution going on in the Soviet Union. The country is being shaken from top to bottom in a gigantic reorganization of farming methods, which has already started from the ground up without waiting final decisions by the central government. The results will be of far greater significance than the change in farming methods—fundamental as this is.

At the time of the 1917 revolution, there were some 25,000,000 individual peasant holdings in Russia. The vast and now admittedly brutal drive for collectivization in the 1930's resulted in grouping the peasantry into several hundred thousand collective farms or kolkhozes. In 1949, the whole of Soviet agriculture was concentrated in about 250,000 kolkhozes, averaging about 1,400 acres each with 113 members each.

In addition there were several thousand much larger state farms, or sovkhozes. (The difference is that the kolkhoz is a cooperative farm, with a managing board and chairman elected by the members. The farmers' income is based exclusively on a division of the profits of what they produce. The sovkhozes are state concerns, with an appointed manager and personnel paid a regular monthly wage like industrial workers. The sovkhozes had their own machinery and were regarded as pilot projects to pioneer new techniques later to be adopted by the kolkhozes.)

AMALGAMATION: In 1950-51, there was a drive to increase by several times the size of the kolkhozes by amalgamating small ones into larger enterprises.

At the end of this process, the kolkhozes were shaken down to 78,000 vast enterprises, each averaging 4,885 acres with about 370 working members. Serving them with machinery were about 8,000 machine and tractor stations—MTS. Leading the way with new techniques and producing consistently richer crops were the 5,800 state farms, each averaging about 15,000 acres. By the end of 1951, the whole of Soviet agriculture was carried on in about 92,000 large-scale units.

In September, 1953, decisions were made to step up farm production. The system of planning was decentralized with the initiative shifted to the kolkhozians themselves. This resulted in more realistic planning and bigger yields. It was supplemented by more technical help through the MTS's, and by the vast project of tilling some 90,000,000 acres of virgin land in Kazakhstan and Siberia. Incomes of the farmers went up; the kolkhozes accumulated big financial reserves. Between September, 1953, and the end of last year, the sovkhozes and MTS's received more than 900,000 tractors, almost 300,000 grain combines and 500,000 trucks. But still there was something seriously wrong.

THE PROBLEMS: Simeon Ramonyuk, manager of the Lenin Memorial kolkhoz 16 miles from Moscow, described the main problems when I recently visited his farm. It is a comparatively small but rich kolkhoz, growing vegetables and fruit for the Moscow market with dairying and poultry as a sideline.

Ramonyuk said: "Our main difficulty is that we have two masters, the MTS and ourselves. When we want land plowed, seed sown, crops cut, we have to turn to the MTS. Our MTS serves eight other kolkhozes. Often we can't get the services when we want them.

"The MTS was a great help in the beginning. But it is difficult to run a modern farm when you are dependent on some organ outside your own control for your main jobs.

"And another thing. The MTS represents the state. But we are a cooperative, independent of the state. We base our earnings on what the land produces. The MTS has to be paid rigidly according to the acreage, regardless of what it yields. For a long time it had to be that way. But now we have our own tractor drivers and for months we've been saying: 'Give us our own tractors. We'll do the job ourselves.'"

THE CHANGE: At the end of 1957 many kolkhozes petitioned the government for permission to buy tractors and other machinery from the MTS's. This was the background to a decision of the Soviet CP in February proposing that kolkhozes in a position to do so should be allowed to buy machinery from the MTS and the latter should be reorganized into RTS—Repair Technical Stations—for major repairs, selling new machinery, fuel and fertilizers, etc. It was decided that a meeting of the Supreme Soviet should be held in April to discuss the matter.

"But we are not waiting for that," Ramonyuk continued. "We need the machines now, to get ready for the spring sowing. We have already bought and paid for eight tractors, a grain combine, and plows, harrows, seed and fertilizer drills to go with the tractors."

He showed that the money they paid for the machinery was 250,000 rubles, almost exactly what they had paid last year for MTS services and what they had budgeted for this year.

Total income of Ramonyuk's farm increased from 3,277,000 rubles in 1955 to 5,136,000 last year. Average earnings for each farmer was 10,000 rubles from the farm and another 8,000 from his private plot. Until now farmers have been paid partly in cash and partly in produce. "But they are demanding to be paid entirely in money," Ramonyuk said. "Beginning in 1959 we will pay only in money, a regular wage on the 15th and last day of the month with an extra dividend at the end of the year." Farmers at the Lenin Memorial all had two weeks vacation on full pay for the first time last year.

"But now, with the machines in our own hands," continued Ramonyuk, "our profits will go up again. The tractor drivers will have an interest in the farm, because more production for them means higher wages, and the machines will be better used."

NEW ORDER: At the MTS, I found manager Nikolai Akulinin's conference room, with baize-covered tables, looking more like the directors' room of a factory. There was an air of efficiency and a breath of the city about Akulinin and his office that made it easy to accept that the MTS are advanced centers of technique and culture in the countryside. As I walked in, a column of ten tractors was clattering out of the MTS yard. "There go the last of our tractors," Akulinin said. Didn't he regret their going?

"They're not my personal property," he replied with a grin. "I am only a state manager here. And there are plenty of other jobs."

He gave a brief review of what the MTS had been doing. With a staff of 183, including 23 specialists, engineers, agronomists, technicians, 80 tractor drivers, 25 truck-drivers, and repair shop personnel, the MTS served eight farms in the district, totalling 10,000 acres of cultivation. It owned 72 tractors, 12 grain combines, 23 trucks, two each of bulldozers and excavators, and 300 various machines. There was also a first-class repair shop, a small factory in itself with enough equipment to carry out major repairs on a large scale. The MTS had provided mechanical service, technical assistance and advice, and a certain amount of road-building, swamp drainage and irrigation.

"We had about 2,800,000 rubles worth of machines here," Akulinin said, "and we are free to sell the lot if we want to. In fact they have practically all been snapped up."

OUTMODED: How did he feel about the criticism of the MTS system? "It's quite true that they have mainly outlived their purposes," he replied. "Khrushchev studied the whole farm problem carefully and put his finger on the bottlenecks. The MTS system was one of the most serious. But reorganized as RTS, they still have an important job to do—still performing their original role as a form of state aid to the kolkhozes."

After the new decisions were announced, a nation-wide discussion started on what the new set-up in the countryside should be. The papers are full of letters to the editor, and some show that the shake-up goes far beyond farming problems.

The manager of a huge farm implement factory at Rostov-on-Don wrote to **Pravda** that in the future, he hopes orders will come up from the kolkhozes, through the MTS's to his factory, based on the real needs of the customer and not on the bright ideas of someone sitting in an Institute or Ministry.

THE CHALLENGE: A whole system of over-centralized, bureaucratic control is being challenged by the shake-up. The system based on people operating on orders handed down from above instead of from creative initiative from below is on the way out. It was doubtless inevitable in herding a hundred million illiterate peasants into kolkhozes but is long out-dated in a country where compulsory secondary school education is almost universal—and will be completely so within two years—and where the scale and level of technical training is unexcelled anywhere.

Altogether there are 1,500,000 machine operators in the MTS's and 186,000 executives. A large proportion of these will gradually move into the kolkhozes, and suggestions are being made that every kolkhoz chairman should now have a deputy, as technical adviser, appointed from the MTS.

A congress of kolkhozians will be held early in 1959 to draw up a new charter which will provide for all payments in cash, two-week paid vacations a year, old-age and disability pensions, the right to initiate production plans on the farms instead of in the ministries and state planning boards; the right of the kolkhozes to have their own machinery. None of these rights existed in the old charter.

All this is in line with Khrushchev's campaign against bureaucracy and the sclerosis that had set in in the years preceding the 20th CP Congress. In the countryside his popularity has never been higher.

THE COTTON-PICKINGEST COMRADES OF THEM ALL
Nikita Khrushchev congratulates an Uzbek cotton picker just made a Hero of Socialist Labor. Fellow in the center was twice decorated.

Wall Street Journal
"He doesn't DO anything . . . he's an executive."

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'A CONTEMPTIBLE HAPPENING'

The real reason behind Robeson's persecution

By W. E. B. DuBois

THE PERSECUTION of Paul Robeson by the government and people of the United States during the last nine years has been one of the most contemptible happenings in modern history.

Robeson has done nothing to hurt or defame this nation. He is, as all know, one of the most charming, charitable and loving of men. There is no person on earth who ever heard Robeson slander or even attack the land of his birth. Yet he had reason to despise America.

He was a black man; the son of black folk whom Americans had stolen and enslaved. Even after his people's hard-won and justly earned freedom, America made their lot as near a hell on earth as was possible. They discouraged, starved and insulted them. They sneered at helpless black children.

Someone once said that the best punishment for Hitler would be to paint him black and send him to the United States. This was no joke. To struggle up as a black boy in America; to meet jeers and blows; to meet insult with silence and discrimination with a smile; to sit with fellow students who hated you and work and play for the honor of a college that disowned you—all this was America for Paul Robeson.

Yet he fought the good fight; "He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised and we esteemed Him not."

WHY? WHY? Not because he attacked this country. Search Britain and France, the Soviet Union and Scandinavia for a word of his against America. What then was his crime?

It was that while he did not rail at America he did praise the Soviet Union; and he did that because it treated him like a man and not like a dog; because he and his family for the first time in life were welcomed like human beings and he was honored like a great man.

The children of Russia clung to him, the women kissed him; the workers greeted him; the state named mountains after him. He loved their homage. His eyes were filled with tears and his heart with thanks. Never before had he received such treatment.

In America he was a "nigger"; in Britain he was tolerated; in France he was cheered; in the Soviet Union he was loved for the great artist that he is. He loved the Soviet Union in turn. He believed that every black man with blood in his veins would with him love the nation which first outlawed the color line.

I SAW HIM when he voiced this. It was in Paris in 1949 at the greatest rally for world peace this world ever witnessed. Two thousand persons from all the world filled the Salle Pleyel from floor to rafters. Robeson hurried in, magnificent in height and breadth, weary from circling Europe with song. The audience rose to a man and the walls thundered. Robeson said that his people wanted peace and "would never fight the Soviet Union." I joined with the thousands in wild acclaim.

"In Babylon, dark Babylon,"

the modern breed of newspaper prostitute "who take the wage of shame" seized the chance to

"grovel to their master's mood—
the blood upon their pen
assigns their souls to servitude
Yea and the souls of men."

THIS, FOR AMERICA, was Robeson's crime. He might hate anybody. He might join in murder around the world. He might lie and steal. But for him to declare that he loved the Soviet Union and would not join in war against it—that was the highest crime that the United States recognized.

For that, they slandered Robeson; they tried to kill him at Peekskill; they prevented him from hiring halls in which to sing; they prevented him from travel and refused him a passport. His college lied about him and dishonored him.

And above all, his own people, American Negroes, joined in hounding one of their greatest artists—not all, but some like those who wrote of Negro musicians and deliberately omitted Robeson's name—Robeson who more than any living man has spread the pure Negro folk song over the civilized world.

Yet has Paul Robeson kept his soul and stood his ground. Still he loves and honors the Soviet Union. Still he has hope for America. Still he asserts his faith in God. But we—what can we say or do but hang our heads in endless shame?

As we celebrate the sixtieth birthday of Paul Robeson from Moscow to New Delhi, New York to California and Accra to Johannesburg, we can all take our stand and sing with him:

"Out of the night that covers me
black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul."

AT THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE 1949
Robeson with French writer and leader Louis Aragon

A NEW MOOD—AND A SENSE OF SHAME

The feeling about Paul at home

By Louis E. Burnham

THE WALLS are tumbling down. Not all at once, but slowly and surely, the barricade of prejudice and hysteria which has hemmed in Paul Robeson for the last decade is giving way to reason—and to shame.

Latest evidence of the change comes from Robeson's colleagues in the theater. On March 28, at a meeting of Actors Equity, the outstanding Negro performer Ossie Davis introduced a resolution which read:

"Resolved that Actors Equity expresses the hope that Mr. Paul Robeson will be given a limited passport to travel to England to appear in the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre production of Pericles."

The debate was lively and in earnest. But observers noted the absence of the name-calling and vicious reference to personalities which had characterized previous discussions of Robeson's status. The house divided 111-75 in favor, and thus did American actors decide to stop playing a collective Iago for the State Dept. in its campaign to persecute the greatest Othello of our day.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS: The Oakland, Calif., City Council also took a vote recently on a matter involving Paul Robeson. When City Manager Wayne E. Thompson ruled that a citizens' committee could use the Municipal Auditorium to present Robeson in concert on Feb. 9, the Council unanimously turned down a request that Thompson be overruled and the hall denied. A threatened picket line failed to materialize and the opposition—a single self-styled American nationalist and his wife—were reduced to copying auto license numbers from the cars of the 2,000 persons who came out in a pelting rain to fill the concert hall to capacity. The numbers, they said, would be sent to Washington to be added to the already over-burdened files of the House un-American Activities Committee.

Robeson's response was a memorable concert which left members of the audience in tears and rapture and sent critics in search of superlatives. One reviewer noted that he still possesses "one of the greatest voices of the century." He reported that: "Robeson's Chorale by Bach, 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,' vibrated through this reviewer's body as if he were but a reed in the wind." Another commented on the artist's "complete identification with both the music and the audience."

ON THE CAMPUS AGAIN: This identification, always a Robeson hallmark, is the key to the new and different type of program featured in the great artist's return to the nation's concert halls. The program may be called an **informal recital**, because Robeson speaks about the origins of, and relations between, the folk music of many peoples, and illustrates this idea with songs.

If the House Un-Americans should find anything subversive in this concept and decide to call for hearings all the concert-going car owners, their calendar will be cluttered for years without end. For the Oakland appearance before 2,000 listeners followed five concerts with audiences totalling 10,000 in San Francisco and Los Angeles last summer. And on April 11 and 12 Robeson will appear at Mandel Hall in the University of Chicago, a likely harbinger of his return to the many campuses where he was a favorite of the younger generation for many years.

THIS WAS ROBESON AT PEEKSKILL
We are now eight years wiser

THE NEGRO COMMUNITY: Last summer's appearances on the West Coast brought into the open a lively discussion in Negro life which has continued at an accelerated pace. Carl T. Rowan, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist, wrote an article for the October, 1957, issue of **Ebony** magazine in which for the first time Robeson's viewpoint received at least equal treatment with the State Dept. line. Rowan acknowledged Robeson as "not only the world's most famous Negro but one of its really great personalities." He made the point that "at the time when many 'reasonable' Negroes are asking themselves whether they were naive in assuming they could win freedom through the legislative and judicial machinery of this nation, there is a responsibility to examine thoroughly Robeson's charge that the issue of Negro equality lies at the heart of his struggle with the State Dept."

Undoubtedly the biggest boost to this reexamination has been provided by the appearance of Paul Robeson's book, **Here I Stand.** The Baltimore **Afro-American**—which for years has stood almost alone in providing its readers with relevant news and feature material about Robeson—is carrying a series of six articles covering the biographical section of the book. The Pittsburgh **Courier** carried a full-page feature-review and its executive editor, P. L. Prattis, said in his March 29 column: "I was stirred deeply by what Mr. Robeson has written."

UP FROM PEEKSKILL: Rowan reported last October that "ambitious Negroes shrink guiltily at the mention of his name." But Dan Burley noted in the N.Y. **Amsterdam News** last month that, with the appearance of the book, "there is a big rush and clatter on the part of his one-time Negro intellectual pals to get on the bandwagon."

The political dignitaries are still aloof or hostile. No Congressmen or Senators, learned bodies or cultural associations as yet have organized celebrations of Paul Robeson's 60th birthday as their counterparts have done all over the world. But the U.S. is removed from the Peekskill riots by nine years and much hard-learned wisdom. And there are signs that the ordinary people may be getting ready to undo the terrible injury the nation has inflicted on a great man whose whole life is explained in the hope for his people with which he ends his book:

"To be free—to walk the good American earth as equal citizens, to live without fear, to enjoy the fruits of our toil, to give our children every opportunity in life—that dream which we have held so long in our hearts is today the destiny that we hold in our hands."

AROUND THE WORLD AND FROM POLE TO POLE

Robeson birthday parties set in 27 countries

By Cedric Belfrage

LONDON

ON APRIL 9, with India's Nehru leading the procession, a multi-colored multitude will celebrate Paul Robeson's 60th birthday around the world and almost from pole to pole. The two-year-old Robeson Committee here, coordinating the international movement to honor America's iron-curtained stage, screen and concert star, reports the formation of birthday committees in 27 countries "to our knowledge." The British committee did not venture an estimate of the number of people who would be listening to Robeson's voice, but said: "Surely there will be a larger audience for one man on one day than at any time since the abdication of Edward VIII." In most of the participating countries tape-recordings specially made by Robeson, or the record of his "trans-Atlantic telephone concert" to a London audience last year, were to be featured in halls and on the radio. Hall concerts were scheduled from Tokyo, Japan and Sydney and Melbourne, Australia to Zurich, Switzerland, Georgetown, British Guiana and Quito, Ecuador.

RECORD CONCERTS: In Mexico City, 20 top figures in music, art, dance, movie, trade union and farm organizations were reported sponsoring a concert; in Aleppo, Syria, a committee of lawyers and teachers headed by an Economic Ministry official; in Peking, a joint group of literary, art, peace, music and cultural relations committees. Hungary planned concerts "throughout the country," and Bulgaria in Plovdiv, Russe and Varna as well as Sofia.

Oslo reported that, after schools passed resolutions for a Robeson passport, "a special affair has been organized by a Youth Committee." In S. Africa a Robeson record recital was arranged by students and faculty members of Cape Town university. A song-film made by Robeson especially for the E. German committee was to be premiered in Berlin's biggest hall and also shown in Vienna. Record concerts were to be broadcast from Belgrade and Jerusalem, and Israeli committees were also operating in Tel Aviv and Haifa.

OTHER AFFAIRS. Committees set up in Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Jamaica, France, India, the U.S.S.R., New Zealand, Pakistan, Czechoslovakia and Egypt had not detailed their plans for birthday affairs. Stockholm reported that the literary magazine **Clarte** planned a Robeson issue.

In London distinguished sponsors of the Robeson Committee are throwing a big birthday party to launch the campaign on what it hopes will be the final lap. The publisher Dennis Dobson announced the forthcoming appearance of a new Robeson biography by Marie Seton, the biographer of Eisenstein, and of Robeson's own book **Here I Stand**. A vigorous introduction to the biography has been written by Britain's most eminent living historian, Sir Arthur Bryant, author of **The Turn of the Tide** based on the war diaries of Viscount Alanbrooke.

A BIG MAN

'His voice is better now than ever . . .'

By Eslanda Goode Robeson

"THERE IS something about Paul Robeson that inspires enthusiasm which can only be expressed in superlatives. People who know him or have heard him invariably use terms such as wonderful, marvellous, great artist, great man. He has a quality of greatness that comes through whatever he does. From his high school days, people have said and written that he was a remarkable student, one of the greatest athletes of his time, a magnificent actor. In America, in England, on the Continent, people feel and appreciate that quality of greatness. He is always glad and proud when he wins new laurels, but he remains modest, simple, lovable.

"And now, when he strolls down the main streets of the large cities of the world, people recognize him. His handsome, almost Grecian figure and his dark-brown African face cannot easily be mistaken. People stare and whisper excitedly, "That's Paul Robeson." If they know him they rush up to greet him, sure of the wide, welcoming grin. He has friends everywhere. He leaves a trail of friendliness wherever he goes, this Paul Robeson, Negro, who, with his typically Negro qualities—his voice, his genial smile—is carving his place as a citizen of the world, a place which would most certainly have made his slave father proud."

THREE GENERATIONS OF THE PAUL ROBESON FAMILY
Standing, Marilyn, Eslanda and Paul Jr; Paul Sr. holds his grandchildren Susan and David.

THE ABOVE was written by me sometime during 1928, and form the closing paragraphs of the book, **Paul Robeson, Negro**, which was published by Harpers in 1930. In the intervening 30 years, Paul Robeson has not changed, he has just become "more so."

When I first met Paul Robeson, nearly 40 years ago in Harlem, he was a very big young man. Six feet three inches tall, with his 200 pounds well distributed over a magnificent frame, he was handsome, and BIG. He had a fine mind (Phi Beta Kappa), and an engaging friendliness and interest in people.

Over the years he has grown larger. Larger in size: he now weighs 265 pounds, distributed a little too generously (alas) over his still magnificent frame. Larger in mind: he has learned new languages, new music, new literature, new techniques in many fields—in theatre, concert, films, recording, radio; he has learned new values, new ways of life, new ways of thought. Larger in friendliness: he has made friends with many different peoples all over the world, and he has also maintained and extended his friendship with his family and his neighbors.

PAUL ROBESON began his concert career by singing Negro music only. Then, as he traveled and studied, he added the folk music of other peoples. Now he sings the music of many peoples, in many languages, and is able to demonstrate what he believes to be the universality of folk music.

Paul Robeson began his political career with his immediate interest in attaining first-class citizenship for the American Negro. This interest was very soon extended to an abiding interest in achieving freedom for our African brothers and sisters, and later for the Asian people; his interest now extends to the attainment of freedom for everyone everywhere, and he does what he can, wherever he is, to hasten this goal.

Paul Robeson began his friendliness career as a very small boy in Princeton, N.J., where he was born. As a minister's son, he was friendly with the parishioners, with the neighbors, with his schoolmates, with the townspeople. As he grew up, this friendliness assumed a clear pattern which has not changed over the years. He was, and is, friendly with people who treat other people—all people—as human beings of equal dignity. He disliked, and later fought—physically, socially, intellectually and politically—all those who sought to deny human beings their fundamental human rights. His friendliness has expanded over the years, and now includes whole nations of peoples.

PAUL ROBESON is now at his best. He knows what he wants to do with his voice, and how to do it; his voice is more beautiful now than ever. He knows what he wants to do with his life, and how to do it: he wants to be friends with peaceful people everywhere, so that he can sing for them, and they can sing with him; he wants to do all he can to help make a peaceful, secure, prosperous, healthy, happy world for our children and grandchildren to live in, and contribute to.

Paul Robeson, at 60, is a very big man, inside and outside, in the larger sense of the word. He has been down in the valley. He was very ill recently for the first time in his life. He met, faced and coped with illness (with consistent, expert and practical help on many levels from loyal, devoted friends) and overcame it, and is now back in good health. He has been subjected to organized persecution for seven years, and has shown rare courage and endurance in withstanding the physical, psychological and political assault. These experiences have made him grow, and have made him realistically evaluate and appreciate the very fine friends he has made all over the world.

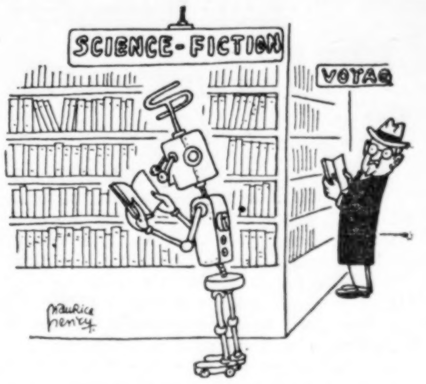
At 60 years of age, on April 9, 1958, Paul Robeson is ready, willing and able to continue his contribution as a citizen of the world.

As his wife and friend for nearly 40 years, I wish to take this occasion to thank his many friends everywhere for their wonderful interest and support over the years.

"We are all tempted by the pearl of popularity; the price of that pearl is too high, if it involves the suppression or the exaggeration of news and opinions that may be displeasing or abrasive when applied to the exposed nerves of prejudice. I deem it undeniable that the right of dissent is in danger in this country. Many of us are disposed to confuse dissent with subversion." —EDWARD R. MURROW

BOOKS

A very good question, Mr. Newman



SCIENCE EDITOR James R. Newman's paperback asks **What Is Science?*** Neither the question nor the suggested answers are new. Perhaps we cannot expect a satisfactory answer until we know more about what the creator of the sciences, man, is. And the chapters on psychology, anthropology and psychoanalysis by three eminent scholars, like most other work in the study of man, are inferior to those included here on the natural sciences.

The social sciences are still far from being able to describe their subject matter clearly, let alone explain it. I believe that in imitating physics the social "sciences" have overlooked the primary and causal role of the arts in their field.

Man has always lived in a cultural environment compounded mainly of his technologies and his value systems, which is to say that he is conditioned by his sciences and his arts. As he goes through life in his rational and emotional ways almost every factor in his consciousness and in his behavior is traceable to an origin in his specialized logical and his specialized esthetic creations.

With the combination of the scientific revolutions and our unsolved spiritual dilemmas, we are in confusion over ideas of justice, tolerance, loyalty and so on. Bringing the successes of the logical and the shortcomings of the esthetic into an intelligible focus may at least shed light on part of the moral crisis which has hit the Western world and the U.S. in particular. A discussion of the scientific-artistic dialectic is too large a project for a book review but its implications may serve as a background for tentative judgments.

THE IDEA of popular science has somehow become associated with a dilution of the truth if not with outright distortions or fraud. This has been repeatedly disproved in reasonably popular and scientifically sound books like this one.

I believe that the anti-democratic infection in such ideas has been brought over from some of our recent arts where, along with the attempts to make the unintelligible mean the beautiful, critical snobbishness has promoted the sick notion that the popular and the good are irreconcilable opposites. This simply overlooks the colossal fact that all the arts which posterity has found worth preserving were originally popular arts.

De Groene, Amsterdam

From the ancient caves to such comics as Krazy Kat, from Homer to jazz and spirituals, through pyramid, temple, cathedral and movie palace, the great arts have been addressed to the masses whether or not the people had direct control over them.

IF MAN is in part art-conditioned, the denial of this fundamental "realism" in the arts must have grave consequences. The idea of the sciences as esoteric may well be one of them. The popularization of the sciences then, in the proper sense, means nothing else than the necessary explanation to us of an extended, inescapable and critically important part of our reality.

Along with the idea that science is obscurely ominous goes the fear that it is irresponsibly dangerous. There is danger here as there is everywhere, and as there is especially in a new world. But the real danger of technology comes from ignorance and misuse and not from the scientists and the work they have done.

As compared with some of the truly obscurantist current arts it must be pretty obvious that a surprising number of working scientists have tried to meet their social responsibilities by informing any one who cares to listen or read what the new world is like in which we are already living. Eight contributors do this clearly and comprehensively in this book —and inexpensively as well.

THE CONTRIBUTIONS of Sir Edmund T. Whittaker on mathematics and logic, Hermann Bondi on cosmology (especially on the recent "steady state" or continuous creation theory of the universe of which he is one of the orginators), and of the former director of the Natl. Bureau of Standards (and Un-American Committee victim) Edward U. Condon on physics, are models of clarity. So is that of Jacob Bronowski on electronic brains and the comparatively new field of information theory.

The omissions which are bound to occur in a book first brought out three years ago (in cloth at $4.95) reflect the pace of our scientific advances.

In a tour de force of sketching the history and explaining the main aspects of chemistry in less than 50 pages, English scientist John Read still refers to the "three states of matter," solid, liquid and gas. Within the last year workers in the hydrogen fusion field have called their ultra-high temperature plasmas a fourth state of matter. And a Russian scientist has suggested this year that matter at ultra-low temperatures may reveal a state where gravitation is overcome.

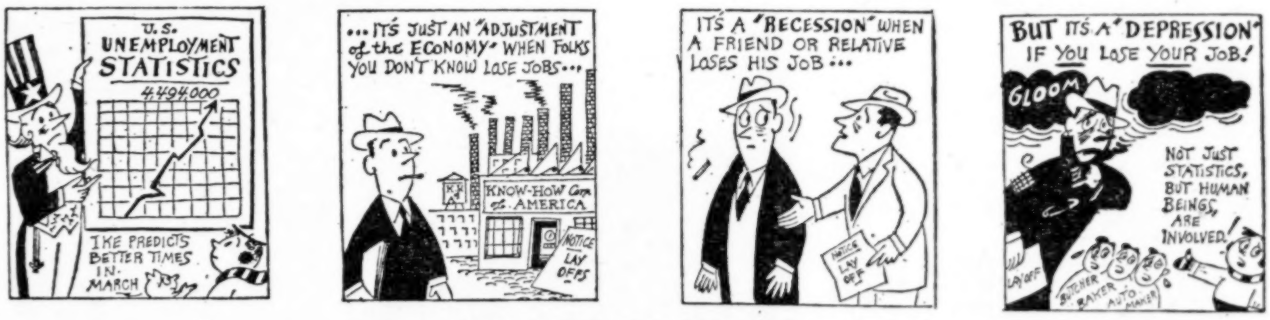
But the book is not by any means out of date. It has numerous diagrams, a good bibliography and an excellent index that makes it serviceable as a reference work. In an inexpensive paperback we should be grateful for these rare virtues.

—**Robert Joyce**

**WHAT IS SCIENCE?*, edited by James R. Newman. Simon and Schuster, 630 Fifth Av., N.Y. 20. 493 pp. $1.95.*

The crisis is real

(Continued from Page 1)



"IT'S ALL IN THE VIEWPOINT"

Williams in Detroit Free Press

ties. The trade unions are holding large conferences, and locals are acting to defend homes and provide food in many communities.

The Administration and Congressional leaders are acting to contain public pressure and delay its mobilization. They are giving handouts to vested interests under cover of "halting the recession." They are following the long-run strategy of big business to ride out the crisis and ultimately solve it by restoring the rate of profit at the expense of the population.

RELIEF FOR BANKERS: Eisenhower's first anti-recession specific, in February, was the scheme to build $1,500,000,000 of post offices under lease-purchase arrangements, at ultimately double the normal cost, with the difference going to the bankers. It was placed before Congress together with the postal rate increase measure. Columnist Drew Pearson charged that Postmaster General Summerfield offered Senators post office projects in exchange for 5c stamp votes. This pork-barrel scheme will bring little if any increase in the volume of public works construction.

High finance

Victor Perlo is the author of **The Empire of High Finance** (International Publishers, 381 Fourth Av., N.Y.C. 16. 352 pp. $5.50). In a review in the GUARDIAN, Vincent Hallinan described the work as "a magnificent book into which the author has crowded an education in political economy."

The following actions were taken during the first three weeks of March:

• The Administration "unfroze" public works funds to raise government cash spending up to $500,000,000 by June 30. This speeds payments to contractors, reducing their borrowing requirements. It adds little or nothing to the pace of public works activity.

• The Senate voted a retroactive $121,000,000 tax concession to the giant life insurance companies, which already pay hardly any taxes. This does not even pretend to help the economy. It is a plain grab by the most powerful, prosperous concerns in the country. Only 19 Senators (4 Republicans, 15 Democrats) voted against it, demonstrating the quiet power of high finance on our legislators. Beware of a multi-billion rich man's grab later disguised as an anti-recession tax cut.

• The President instructed officials to urge local public authorities, cooperatives, and private builders to speed up work on $2,200,000,000 in projects for which Federal-aid funds have already been made available. This is irrelevant exhortation and misleading publicity.

• Congress passed the $1,850,000,000 emergency housing bill for government purchase of government-insured mortgages and some direct government loans on veterans' housing. Other provisions permit increasing interest and discount charges to home buyers using government-insured mortgages.

Sponsors claim this will add 200,000 homes and 500,000 jobs to the next year's activity. It will tend to increase home-building and jobs by fractions of these figures. Housing volume is limited by the shrinking incomes of potential buyers. The provision of more credit facilities when that is not the key limiting factor is aptly called "pushing the string." Many builders will merely switch from conventional to government-insured financing, without increasing their volume. At most —100,000 extra homes providing 150,000 jobs. The general effect of the crisis may more than offset this, leading to a net decline in housing starts. The only sure gainers are bankers guaranteed higher interest receipts.

• Eisenhower urged Congress to provide up to 13 weeks' extra payments to unemployed workers who exhaust state benefits. His proposal leaves control with state governments, including their much-abused powers to disqualify unemployed workers and club them into inferior jobs. It keeps payments at the inadequate average of 35% of wages, and continues the exclusion of vast categories of workers.

It is an attempt to forestall the labor drive for a decent, modernized, unemployment insurance system with 65% payments to all unemployed everywhere. The White House estimates that it will result in payment of up to $600,000,000 to 2,000,000 workers in a year. This amounts to 7% of the wages lost by the 2,000,000 in a year. It is the minimum relief measure the Administration can hope to get away with, and will have virtually no positive economic effect.

• There have been several announcements of accelerated armament contracts, and requests for added military appropriations. However, even the Administration has given up its earlier claims that missile spending would bring a quick turnaround. Is the recent stiffening of Administration anti-summit conference maneuverings an attempt to leave the door open for more drastic business "remedies" in the military field?

The combined effect of all current actions by Federal and local governments will be to raise military hard-goods procurement by perhaps $3,000,000,000 per year, and public construction by not more than $2,000,000,000 this year only. As against this, the decline in business investment (including inventories) and exports will be of the order of $15,000,000,000 this year, with enormous leverage throughout the economy. Nothing in sight will prevent unemployment from reaching 7 or 8,000,000 next winter.

That's the way the golf ball bounces

BUT I WILL SAY THIS: I believe that the American public now should be buying on the basis of the worth of the product that is offered to them. I believe that there is great, a great field for expansion of business by better salesmanship on the part of business concerns. I believe there is still, we have got great savings, I believe that we have got to offer things in a better packaged way, we've got to do better advertising and above all things let the public buy when they think they are getting a bargain and not worrying about what is going to be the possible future of some possible future action.

—Pres. Eisenhower at a press conference, March 26

Soviet bomb ban

(Continued from Page 1)

Rep. Durham (D-N.C.) called Gromyko's proposal "a vivid demonstration ... of Soviet perfidy." The State Dept. accused the Soviet Union of trying to avoid inspection of test suspension and said it could not rely on "a Soviet statement of intentions for which there is no system of verification, which can be evaded in secrecy . . ."

AN ANGRY GAITSKELL: The State Dept. glossed over the fact that it had verified to its own satisfaction the 39 tests in the Soviet Union (120-125 have been made by the U.S.). It accused Moscow of pressuring Washington, London and Paris to give up their forthcoming tests after Moscow had finished its own recent series. It ignored the point made angrily by British Labor Party leader Gaitskell last week in Commons: if the Western powers had accepted the agreement to suspend tests almost reached by Harold Stassen last summer in London, an international inspection system would already be in existence and the recent Soviet tests would not have taken place.

U.S. response was bound to be querulous and evasive, because the dominant group in the Administration—led by Secy. of State Dulles, Atomic Energy Commission chairman Lewis L. Strauss and AEC scientific member Dr. Willard F. Libby—are determined to continue the tests and station nuclear weapons among U.S. allies.

THE PRINCIPAL AIM: These allies include (1) the French government, which has demonstrated horrifying irresponsibility in the Sakiet bombing; (2) the South Korean government, which is straining to reopen the Korean war and has offered to send forces to the Sumatran rebels in Indonesia.

Gromyko told the Soviet parliament that it was Moscow's "principal aim" (1) to reach step-by-step agreement with other powers on an unconditional ban on atomic and hydrogen weapons of all kinds; (2) an end to production of all such weapons; (3) complete destruction of such weapons "with proper controls." The Soviet parliament appealed to the U.S. Congress and the parliaments of all nations to cooperate in finding the road

Justus in Minneapolis Star
THE TOME.

to halting all tests and preventing the remilitarization of West Germany with rockets and atomic weapons.

KHRUSHCHEV'S ROLE: These and other proposals for an East-West disengagement through successive stages were, in fact, contained in the last Soviet aide-memoire to the U.S., which Dulles turned down by saying: "It would mean that on the way to the summit we would have lost our shirt." On the day of Gromyko's announcement, the three Western powers asked Soviet Premier Khrushchev to open diplomatic parleys in Moscow leading to a foreign ministers' meeting preliminary to a summit conference.

Khrushchev's assuming the premiership—while holding his CP post—led to speculation in the West that "one-man rule" had again replaced "collective leadership" in the Soviet Union. Significantly, however, not all the Western press, nor the majority of sober observers, indulged in such speculation.

THE REASONS WHY: The general feeling abroad and among foreign diplomats in Moscow was that Khrushchev had become Premier (1) to strengthen his position in any summit meeting; (2) to avoid being considered "an interloper" because he represented only the Soviet CP and not the government, and (3) vigorously to pursue his goal of catching up with and surpassing the American standard of living.

The conservative London **Daily Telegram**, for example, said his new post merely reflected "the authority he has already gained." The liberal **News Chronicle** said that, as Premier, Khrushchev could concentrate on the task of competitive coexistence. The West German **Neue Rhein Zeitung** said: "His power at home rests on refrigerators and television sets—not on Stalin-type terror and the secret police." Even the U.S. State Dept. spokesman Lincoln White said:

"This development clarifies a situation in which Mr. Khrushchev has been participating at meetings of heads of government, even though he occupied no official position."

A TEMPORARY JOB? Far from ending "collective leadership," some competent observers were inclined to the belief that it was the collective leadership's decision to name Khrushchev for a temporary period as Premier to utilize his acknowledged abilities during the almost certain forthcoming international negotiations. Supporting this view, the London **Times** reported that "the talk in Moscow [was that] Mr. Khrushchev may be taking over temporarily" and that his possible successor may be former Prime Minister Koslov of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic, who has been made a cabinet member. The **Times** said:

"We must not [also] forget the hope of a summit conference to which Mr. Khrushchev is committed and at which he will now be the **de jure** as well as the **de facto** Russian representative. This might also be the reason for the temporary change."

A CAPABLE BARGAINER: Foreigners who have met Khrushchev agree on his unique qualifications for representing his country at international conferences. They were impressed, the N.Y. **Times** reported, by his "remarkable grasp of situations as well as of small facts, such as the number of square feet of housing under construction in Moscow." The **Times** added:

"Such knowledge, plus his close familiarity with who is saying what in foreign countries suggests both extreme concentration and a staggering amount of time devoted to detailed briefings." Foreign diplomats in Moscow agree he would be a sharp bargainer to deal with across a table.

The policies that Premier Khrushchev will follow were spelled out in his campaign speeches and in his first address to parliament: (1) peaceful coexistence; (2) raising Soviet living standards; (3) competing with the West in peacetime production. **Times** correspondent William J. Jorden reported that Khrushchev's election as Premier was also a "recognition of [his] undoubted popularity" among Soviet citizens, who associate him "with the unquestioned signs of material progress in the last few years." They believe "more authority for him means more of the same for them," and are convinced that he "truly wants peace and is working toward that end."

GOOD LIFE FOR ALL: How strongly Khrushchev desires a summit meeting to ease tensions so that the world's energies, as he put it, could be devoted to building prosperity for all, was indicated in recent interviews with American journalists. He told N.Y. **Journal of Commerce** publisher Eric Ridder and editor H.E. Luedicke that unrestricted East-West trade—not in armaments but "in the products of peaceful labor"—could ease "international tension" and eliminate "the current recession in the U.S." Such a Washington-Moscow trade agreement, he said, would provide a promising atmosphere for the summit meeting.

FIDEL CASTRO LEADS A CHEER
For him and his men, D-Day was near

Cuba gets signal

(Continued from Page 1)

and national police have tried to drown the rebellion in blood. Mangled corpses with hacked-off limbs are meant to deter Cubans from giving the rebels aid and comfort. The Cubans have failed to heed such reminders.

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-N.Y.) on the floor of the House last week read a letter from a former Cuban Naval officer who said that last year he came across a burned hut near the village of Pilon. "There were four bodies inside, three adults (two females and a male) mutilated beyond recognition and in a crude crib a child about three or four years old with a bayonet pinning it down through its stomach." On board his ship later, he wrote, his fellow officers, including Lt. Julio Laurent of Naval Intelligence, boasted of the killings. Later, the letter said, he saw two men and four women burned at the stake. The women had been raped first. It was a family: a storekeeper, his nephew, his wife and three daughters. They had been charged with selling food to the rebels. The officer resigned his commission and concluded his letter:

"All political suspects, whether innocent or not, are tortured beyond imagination, some killed afterward, and most kept in this so-called prison against all law and order. Our lives are constantly in danger, but don't worry, we will manage somehow."

The letter's author, who saw combat service in the Pacific as a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy, is now Batista's prisoner.

HAVANA STILL GAUDY: Lt. Laurent, named in the letter, had a forbidding reputation as a torturer. Last month, a Court of Appeals judge was brave enough to order his arrest along with Major Esteban Ventura Nobo of the Natl. Police. Major Ventura promptly visited the Judge's court and asked for an explanation, declaring that he came before him unarmed. It was the Major's joke; behind him stood four of his men carrying machine guns. The judge vacated the order at once, took a leave of absence for illness and a plane for Miami.

In Havana authorities for months have tried to camouflage the crisis. The city remains a gaudy, corrupt capital with U.S. tourists thronging its bars and casinos. U.S. racketeer Meyer Lansky still runs the government-approved gambling casino at the Nacional and Habana-Riviera. The 30-story luxury Habana Hilton Hotel opened in March, blessed by the canon of Havana Cathedral and inaugurated with a gala outpouring of movie stars under heavy guard. Despite the guard, the carpeting was burned by rebel demonstrators. Tourists reportedly ignore the daily shootings and bombings, informing reporters that these concern only Cubans.

Crowds singing the national anthem are dispersed in Havana streets and they have since taken to singing it at church services. The **Readers Digest** office in Havana was set afire. The 18,000 students at Havana University have vowed to stay out of school until Batista is overthrown.

ELECTIONS PUT OFF: For a while Batista tried to maintain the fiction of normalcy, dismissing the rebels as bandits, lunatics or communists. He scheduled elections—with a carefully selected opposition—for June 1 but had to postpone them to November. On March 12 he suspended all constitutional guarantees and clamped down a rigid press censorship. Newsdealers had to stay up nights clipping out all material from foreign publications dealing with Cuba, then found few buyers for the tattered copies.

The big Cuban weekly **Bohemia** appeared without a line about anything in Cuba and a little box reprinting the censorship directive from the government. The Inter-American Press Assn. reported that editors and publishers of **Bohemia** as well as of the top Cuban dailies, **Prensa Libre** and **El Mundo**, had been threatened with death from government sources.

The Catholic Church sponsored a "Committee of Conciliation" which won Batista's immediate support but was turned down by Castro who asked what was meant by a "national union government" and whether "any Cuban with dignity and self-respect would be willing to sit in a cabinet presided over by Fulgencio Batista."

U.S. AID: On March 17, representatives of 42 religious, fraternal, cultural and professional societies signed a plea to Batista to resign "to save Cuba from anarchy and chaos." Instead Batista has moved to put his forces on a full-scale war footing.

Rebel sources have pointed out that this is impossible without U.S. assistance. Cubans are strafed by U.S.-made jet planes, flown by U.S.-trained pilots.

Powell in his speech to Congress listed the heavy shipments of arms to Batista by the U.S. and said:

"Mr. Speaker, the United States is a partner with the dictator of Cuba, Fulgencio Batista, in the killing of close to 4,000 Cubans so far, and it is time that we should get out and get out at once."

NATIONWIDE PETITION CAMPAIGN

Sobell dinners in L. A. and N. Y.

LARGE DINNER meetings in Los Angeles and New York this month will celebrate the transfer of scientist Morton Sobell from Alcatraz prison to Atlanta, nearly 3,000 miles nearer his family and friends in New York.

Both events will spark the nationwide petition campaign asking the President to intervene for a new trial or freedom for Sobell, convicted with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in 1951 for conspiracy to commit espionage and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Hundreds of prominent Americans initiated the appeal to the President, citing doubts of Sobell's guilt and misgivings over the conduct of his trial.

One of the initiators of the appeal for presidential intervention, Rev. Peter McCormack, former Alcatraz chaplain, will be a principal speaker at the New York dinner meeting Monday evening, April 21, at the Tavern on the Green in Central Park. Rev. McCormack, a Presbyterian, knew Sobell at Alcatraz during the five years he spent there before his transfer late in February.

On April 12 at the Los Angeles dinner, at Park Manor, 607 So. Western Ave., the principal speaker will be Prof. Malcolm Sharp of the U. of Chicago Law School and one of the Rosenbergs' defense staff during their last appeals to the Supreme Court. Prof. Sharp's book, **Was Justice Done?** is an authoritative work on the trials of the Rosenbergs and Sobell.

Helen Sobell, wife of the imprisoned scientist, will report to both dinner meetings and to a meeting in San Francisco April 11, on her first face-to-face meetings with her husband in five years. On her visits to Alcatraz heavy plate glass separated them and conversation was by telephone connection.

Reservations for the dinner meetings may be obtained at $10 each from the Los Angeles Sobell Committee, 462 No. Western Ave.; and the New York Sobell Committee, 940 Broadway.

Several prominent names have been added to the petition to the President initiated by commentator Elmer Davis, Nobel Prize winners Harold Urey and Linus Pauling, and others. The new signers include Dr. Bernard M. Bass, Louisiana State U.; Profs. Louis T. Safer, Paul Holmer and Cyrus P. Barnum, U. of Minnesota; Sam Locke, author of the Broadway play **Fair Game**; Frank Boyd, president, Minneapolis Sleeping Car Employes Union; Rev. Albert E. Myers, Jeromesville, Ohio.

Gen. Hester speaks Apr. 11 at Van Orden Memorial

BRIG.-Gen. Hugh B. Hester (USA Ret.), will be the principal speaker Fri. eve., April 11, at the Third Annual Katharine Van Orden Memorial Meeting at the Hotel Carlton in Newark. Gen. Hester was a member of an American-European Seminar which toured the Soviet Union last year and interviewed Nikita Khrushchev.

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Enclosed $...... for .... reservations in my name at $10 per person.

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Chairman: **Professor Kermit Eby**
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Speakers: F. Fernandez, student; and a representative of Cuban Revolutionary Directorate. Fri., April 11, 8:15 p.m. 777 West Adams St.

Detroit, Mich.

The United Detroit Forum presents a Symposium on **"Disarmament, Coexistence and World Politics."** Thurs., April 10, 8 p.m. Central Methodist Church, 4th fl. 23 East Adams at Woodward. Free.

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Sun., May 4: Family Program—**ISRAELI SONGS & DANCES**, 2:30 p.m. $1; ch. 50c.
Wed., May 7: Special Gallery Talks—**BENIAMINO BUFFANO**, 8 p.m.
Fri., May 9: **ART FILMS** "3rd Ave. L." "Witch Doctor," The Drawings of Leonardo Da Vinci"
2 shows, 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. 50c.
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April 16, **"THE LAST DEPRESSION"** (Have we forgotten lessons of the '30's, what did we learn?)
April 23, **"MASS CULTURE & MASS UNEMPLOYMENT"** (How does mass culture affect mass activity? Important social psychological changes in film & TV). Lectures held at 800 S. Plymouth Blvd.
Single lecture admission 90c.

"THE HISTORY OF THE LAST FORTY YEARS" by **DR. W.E.B. DuBOIS**, dean of American letters, Fri., April 18, 8 p.m. Benefit Church Tax Fund, Ad. $1. First Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8 St.

Berkeley, Calif.

A Debate on Future of Soviet Society
L. COSER, Dissent Editor, U.C. Prof.
T. EDWARDS, Ed. Director L.A. S.W.P.
Time: 8 pm, Friday, April 11.
Place: Oddfellows Hall, corner Fulton & Bancroft, Berkeley.
Donation: 50c. Questions & Discussion Period. Ausp: Berkeley Socialist Forum.

Newark, N.J.

BRIG. GEN. HUGH B. HESTER, U.S.A. (Ret.) speaks on "The U.S., the U.S.S.R. and Peace," at the 3rd Annual Memorial Meeting Katharine Van Orden Fund for Freedom, Fri., April 11, 8:15 p.m.
Hotel Carlton, 24 East Park St.
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Monday, April 7, 8:30 P.M.
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JAMES E. JACKSON, JR., Secretary for Negro Affairs, Communist Party.
- - - - -
Tuesday, April 8, 8:30 P.M.
"What is Modern Music?"
in series on "Music & the People" (recordings)
SIDNEY FINKELSTEIN, author
"Realism In Art"
- - - - -
Wednesday, April 9, 8:30 P.M.
"Separatism & Unity in the U.S."
in series on "Our Country & Our People"
HERBERT APTHEKER, Editor,
"Political Affairs"
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Thursday, April 10, 8:30 P.M.
"The 'Revisers' of Freund in U.S."
in series of "Psychology & Psychiatry in the U.S."
HARRY K. WELLS, author,
"Ivan Pavlov"
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Friday, April 11, 8:30 P.M.
"How Close To The Summit Now?"
An analysis of latest developments in the U.S.-U.S.S.R. top-level conference negotiations and their prospects.
HAROLD COLLINS
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Sunday, April 13, 8:30 P.M.
"Paul Robeson Tells His Story"
A review of recently published autobiography, "Here I Stand," in honor of Paul Robeson's 60th birthday April 9th.
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THE GALLERY

LAST YEAR DR. OTIS W. SMITH picked up his telephone to make a call; at the same time a woman in another part of the town also lifted the receiver. The lines were crossed and neither could get a dial tone. They argued over who should hang up and as tempers mounted the language became stronger. The woman hurled abuse at the doctor and he answered in kind and hung up. For this Dr. Smith was sentenced last month to eight months in a work gang and fined $500.

Dr. Smith is a Negro; the woman is white and the town is Ft. Valley, Ga. Last week, after Negro leaders intervened, the judge agreed to suspend sentence if Dr. Smith wrote a letter to the woman begging forgiveness and left town. He was the only Negro physician in the community.

A GROUP OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN from Akron, O., asked their Congressman, Rep. William Ayres, to arrange a tour of an embassy for them while they were in Washington. They had no preference, so Ayres checked with all the Western embassies but found no takers. The only welcome mat was placed by the U.S.S.R.

On March 18, 107 women were given a grand tour of the Soviet embassy. When they entered one woman nervously exclaimed, "We're behind the Iron Curtain." As it rolled back it revealed Ambassador Menshikov and his wife on hand to guide the tour. The guests were served coffee and tea and the ambassador discreetly announced that there was French brandy to be had in the next room. A film on Moscow was shown and, as they left, the women were given an armful of Soviet publications in English. Rep. Ayres seemed nervous about the tour. He promised to give a dinner for the women to "undo the brainwashing."

STUDENTS AT COLORADO U. won a five-month battle for the right to distribute socialist papers on campus. But President Quigg Newton ruled that they could not be distributed in buildings or enclosed areas such as tennis courts, intra-mural fields and the football stadium. . . . The Gillingham, England, road safety committee banned a safety poster that read, "Good drivers keep well to the left." They said they were afraid it "might be mistaken for Labor Party propaganda." . . . The N.Y. **Herald Tribune** has dropped Herbert Philbrick and his column on "subversive" activity. . . . A survey by **Tide** magazine reveals that 65% of advertising men who carry attaché cases to and from their offices never open them when they get home. Not even to put in a cheese sandwich?

BILLBOARDS ARE PLASTERED with posters begging funds for Radio Free Europe (the outfit that broadcast inflammatory programs to Hungary). Donors are asked to send their money "care of your local postmaster." Bookseller Bob Brown of New York asks whether the deficit, which Postmaster General Summerfield is trying to overcome at the expense of us poor people, isn't due in some part to the cost of processing these donations . . . Marian Miller, FBI informer in California, in association with the Women for America, is sponsoring an essay contest for UCLA undergraduates on the theme, "The Moral Values of the Free Enterprise System in America." . . . Footnote to the story of Martex producing a beach towel in the form of a Confederate flag comes from Jackson, Miss., where "Yankee businessmen" were warned they face $100 fines and 30 days in jail if they peddle those towels in that state.

—**Robert E. Light**

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the SPECTATOR

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- Twenty-five cents for the Justice Dept. division in charge of convincing the Supreme Court not to review the Morton Sobell case; a similar sum for promotion of the legal expert who cooked up the Taft-Hartley "conspiracy" indictments in Cleveland; and 50c toward a filing case to keep buried the 400-page FBI report on Little Rock.
- Fifty cents for maintenance of the microphones used in the Senate Rackets Committee's campaign to create sentiment for legislation to housebreak the unions.
- A dollar for the retirement pension fund for all the liberal legislators who were tying their shoe-laces when new appropriations were voted for the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.
- A quarter to help soundproof Secy. Benson's office to muffle the cries of every third farmer being plowed under.

I didn't complete my list, which adds up to something less than eight bucks of my $16.10 contribution. It seemed too dreary to try to account for the remaining eight bucks. It would be handy if the Treasury Dept. or somebody would issue a little table telling us where our money goes.

—George Breitman

MEETINGS SET APRIL 11-19

Nuclear sanity appeal in New York

A NINE-DAY campaign calling for immediate cessation of nuclear bomb tests and abolition of nuclear weapons will be opened Friday, April 11, by the New York Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, the committee's chairman, Robert W. Gilmore, announced last week. The drive, to be known as "Appeal for Nuclear Sanity," will include public meetings in many parts of the city, circulation of petitions against H-bomb testing, delegations to members of Congress to urge their support, and visits to United Nations representatives.

Sens. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) and Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), advocates of a nuclear weapons ban, are listed among the principal speakers. Meetings are to be held in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island, Westchester and Newark April 14-19.

The public meetings, all at 8:15 p.m., are: Mon., April 14: Broadway Tabernacle, 56th St. and Broadway, and Livingston Manor, 301 Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn; Wed., April 16: Good Citizenship League Hall, 140-42 Sanford Av., Queens; Thurs., April 17: at Trinity Methodist Church, 581 Clinton Av., Newark; Fri., April 18: Cooper Union, Third Av. and E. Eighth St.; Sat., April 19, Hofstra College, Hempstead. On April 19, at Friends Meeting House, Purchase, N.Y., there will be a one-day institute from 1:30 to 10 p.m.

The office of the New York committee is 237 Third Av. Phone: GRamercy 3-5998.